

# I tried the library's new virtual reality system

*Here's what you need to know*

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The Georgetown branch of Halton Hills Public Library is taking gaming to an out-of-this-world level, and their new system is for the sharing.

With funds received from the Improving Digital Library Services (ILDS) grant, HHPL has purchased a HTC Vive virtual reality system

that puts players, quite literally, right smack in the middle of the action - whatever that action may be.

The current games available on the Vive system are Tilt Brush and Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes, but HHPL is currently in the process of purchasing others.

What's next on their radar? Richie's Plank Experience, for all the daredevils out there who aren't afraid of some virtual heights.

In Tilt Brush (which I was given the opportunity to

play), players are able to move around in different environments and create virtual artwork in the world around them.

The world and the artwork that the player is immersed in, in the virtual realm, is projected onto a gaming screen so others in the room are able to see what they see.

Youth Services librarian Jodie Mandarino says Tilt Brush can be used for a host of activities, including playing a virtual game of Pictionary with a group.

For teens looking to test drive the system, the library will be hosting a virtual reality-themed lock in on April 13 for youth from grades 7 to 12.

Centred on the sci-fi book, and newly released film, Ready Player One, the lock in will feature a real-life Easter Egg Hunt, as well as some '80s pop culture trivia, along with playing time on the Vive system.

HHPL will also be offering a series of events and programs serving children, teens and adults in the coming months.

Community librarian Lee Puddephatt says the library has also partnered with Extendicare in Georgetown, and are in discussion with Hillsview Active Living Centre to provide virtual reality programming for seniors.

As well, HHPL will be bringing the HTC Vive to At Home in the Hills on April 20 and 21, and to the Open Door Georgetown Youth Drop-in and the Off the Wall Acton Youth Drop-in as part of youth week on April 30.

The library will officially

launch the virtual reality system on June 9 with a Retro Games Day event featuring old and new computer games for all ages.

The Vive system will be available for players aged 10 and up, and for the younger children who want to test out some games, the library will be offering a PlayStation virtual reality experience.

For further information on HHPL updates, follow the library on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or sign up for their monthly newsletter.

## Bread Basket moving to new location April 24

The Georgetown Bread Basket announced this week that it will be reopening at its new location on Tuesday, April 24.

The bright and spacious new facility, located at 49B Mountainview Rd. N., will allow the food bank to better serve the Georgetown community, said its chair, Lori Bradling.

In the meantime, clients are welcome to continue shopping at the current facility, located at 55 Sinclair Ave. near Guelph Street.

The food bank is open on Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Clients are reminded that the food bank will be

closed on Saturday, April 21 to facilitate the move to the new location. It will reopen at the new location on Mountainview Road North on Tuesday, April 24, and resume with regular hours of operation.

"We're thrilled to be opening the doors of our new facility," said Bradling.

"We're so grateful for the generous support that the community has provided toward this relocation project, and I hope that our clients and volunteers will be just as excited as we are with the final result."

The Georgetown Bread Basket is the primary food bank that serves the residents of Georgetown. It is a registered charity and non-profit organization

that is operated entirely by volunteers.

The low overhead costs mean that as much as 98 per cent of monetary donations go directly into the food bank. On a monthly basis, 378 adults and children rely on the Georgetown Bread Basket for food.

Since first opening its doors in 1996, the Georgetown Bread Basket has seen an increase in the number of local residents who rely on the food bank to nourish themselves and their families. In recent years, the food bank has rapidly outgrown its current location and required a larger facility to store food and serve its clients.

For more info, contact the Georgetown Bread Basket at 905-873-3368.

## Georgetown Market Place will be used to house 'criminals'

The Georgetown Market Place will be the scene of mock trials and a jail to house "criminals" April 27 until they can post bail. Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and other celebrity judges will pass sentences on the volunteer jailbirds, including Councillor Michael Albano and several Halton community leaders and business owners who will face charges like Murdering the Retirement Age and Possessing Too Many Selfies.

Among the notable "criminals" participating in the Jail-A-Thon on Friday at Georgetown Market Place will be Deputy Chief Nishan Duraiappah and Inspector John Van der Lelie of the Halton Regional Police Service, Kelly Montague of

Metroland Media, Rocco Neglia of Economical Insurance, Pepper Parr of the Burlington Gazette, Joe Milton of The Knights of Columbus, Cst. William Bijl of the CN Police, Roberta Dee of Deesigns and Ann Gibson of the OPP Victim Services Volunteer Unit.

"We are looking forward to putting on a good show and raise awareness for this important organization that is helping keep Halton Region one of the safest regional communities in Canada," said Cal Millar, Chair of Crime Stoppers of Halton.

"When these volunteer criminals are sentenced to serve time in the makeshift jail at these shopping centres, each jailbird will be contacting colleagues, friends and family to raise

money for bail which will be set during a mock trial at the mall," explained Detective Constable Jodi Richmond, police coordinator for Crime Stoppers of Halton.

The Jail-a-Thon features a roughly five-by-five foot makeshift jail in the centre court of the mall. There will be a judge, prosecutor and jailbirds who act out courtroom scenarios where fictitious, humorous charges are read out, sentences are handed down and the jailbird is expected to come up with the bail amount to gain their freedom. All the proceeds go to Crime Stoppers of Halton.

The Jail-A-Thon fundraiser will take place at Georgetown Market Place between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Friday, April 27th.



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